

Appl. No.: 09/723,687
Amdt. dated December 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of October 2, 2003

~~or a static prediction is not desired, the pair of bits is encoded to instruct the processor not to use static prediction for the corresponding instruction.~~

~~— The processor also includes fetch logic which fetches instructions. The static branch prediction instruction identifies itself to the processor by including a predetermined register identifier that does not correspond to a register in the processor. The fetch unit examines the fetched instructions for that predetermined value to identify the static branch prediction instructions.~~

A computer system comprises a processor that comprises a hardware branch predictor and software instructions executed by the processor. The software instructions comprise conditional branch instructions and separate static branch prediction instructions. The static branch prediction instructions comprise a plurality of groups of static branch prediction bits, each group being configurable to provide prediction information for a separate conditional branch instruction.